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Nunatama Eskimo and gives a careful description of their characteristics and all phases of their lives. He travelled hundreds of miles along the coastal regions, which he describes in considerable detail. His account of the activities and life of the whalers in that region is informing, and the interest in his own adventures is enhanced by the fact that some unusual hardships were his lot and at times he was on the verge of starvation. His many photographic reproductions are admirable and his book was well worth writing.

Mr. Harrison wishes to utilize the experience he has gained by renewing his attempt to reach the far north in this region. He aspires to nothing less than to take soundings across the frozen ocean from Prince Patrick Island to Spitzbergen, passing over the Pole, the distance being about 1,500 miles. He desires to start from Prince Patrick Island in October, making the journey in winter, when there is less danger of meeting with open channels, and to have with him, 11 Eskimo, 18 sledges, 162 dogs and supplies for 260 days. He gives his reasons for believing that the journey can be made. His scheme is certainly original, and if he can raise $25,000 he intends to put it to the test.

L'Océanographie. Par Dr. J. Richard. vi and 398 pp., 339 Illustrations and Bibliography. Vuibert & Nony, Paris, 1907. Pr. 10 frs.

The author of this work is Dr. Jules Richard, Director of the Museum of Oceanography in Monaco. The chief predecessors of the volume in France are two works on oceanography by M. Thoulet and the section of de Lapparent's Traité de Géologie devoted to that subject. The present purpose is to offer a popular treatment which shall at the same time be highly scientific, omitting or only summarizing questions which are difficult, unattractive or still in debate. The work is dedicated, by his permission, to the Prince of Monaco as the fruit of many years of participation in the scientific cruises of that eminent patron and student of the science of the ocean.

The sixteen chapters may be considered as falling into four or five groups: first, those discussing larger and general features such as depth, limits, relations to the lands, and the sea bottom; second, the waters, including floating ice; third, movements; fourth, the life of the sea (six chapters), and a final chapter on the history of investigation. The work is amply illustrated with 339 maps, drawings and photographs. The quarto page allows these to be closely associated with the appropriate parts of the text, thus considerably enhancing the interest and instructional value of the treatise.

No less than thirty means of ascertaining depth are described, from simple devices to the elaborate machinery used on modern cruises of investigation. The various instruments determine depth by direct measurement, by recording the pressure of the water, through the propagation of sound and by means of variations of weight. Chapter 2 is chiefly occupied with an historical and descriptive account of bathymetric maps, particularly the series following upon the deliberations of the Wiesbaden commission and prepared through the munificence of the Prince of Monaco. A group photograph of the commission at work is included, showing the Prince of Monaco presiding, and Professors Krümmel, Thoulet, Supan, Pettersson and Mill. Maps of the several oceans are reproduced, and also of some special areas as the Ravin de Puerto Rico, the Fosse de l'Hirondelle and the Ravins des Carolines et des Mariannes. The accompanying text gives a most useful summary of the chief topographic features of the several ocean basins.

In like manner, the existing data as to the deposits of the ocean bottom are summarized not only in a manner acceptable to the general reader, but convenient for geologists and geographers whose special studies lie in other fields, but who desire to know, or to have conveniently accessible, the results of this comparatively new branch of earth science. A similar comment, indeed, may well be made with reference to Dr. Richard's entire volume. The waters of the sea offer many problems, and we find here a variety of topics such as the measurement of temperature, its distribution and variations; the gathering of water samples at various depths, for which some seventeen devices receive notice; pressure and compressibility; specific gravity and density; transparency and coloration; chemical composition, dissolved gases and organic matter in solution.

An interesting passage discusses the "dead water" often reported by Norwegian sailors and encountered by Nansen off the Siberian coast, retarding the course of ships, but, until explained by recent researches, regarded as a product of the imagination. It has been shown that the phenomenon occurs only where salt waters are covered by a suitable stratum of fresh or brackish water, a condition likely to be found in the fiords of Norway or at other points of discharge of fresh waters. Cases are cited from the seas about Vancouver Island and in the Greek Archipelago. Pliny gives a similar example from an ancient voyage of Caligula, and M. Ekman attributes to this cause an experience of the 17th century reported in the "Nautica Mediterranea" of Bartolomeo Cresciento Romano.

Under the head of movements we find waves, tides, seiches, currents and the general circulation in the oceans. The Gulf Stream is described as the best-known and most important movement of ocean waters on the globe. "For us Europeans it plays a capital *rôle.* Its influence upon the climate of the shores of Europe is preponderating. It acts directly by the neighbourhood of its warm waters, or by the heat which it communicates to the winds which reach us." The stream is traced from its equatorial origin, and its variations of direction, width, depth, temperature and velocity are recorded. The course of this current in the vicinity of western Europe was shown by the researches of Hatreux, Bénard and the Prince of Monaco, the last having put out 510 floating objects along the 20th meridian between the latitudes of Cape Finisterre and the south of England. Of these 57 were recovered, from the shores of Brittany to the north of Spain, thus demonstrating one of the various ramifications of the Gulf Stream.

Chapter 10 discusses biological oceanography in general, outlining with ample illustrations the apparatus and methods used. Marine plants follow and a full review of the principal animal forms. The closing chapter is devoted to modern oceanography, the more important expeditions, the Permanent International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, oceanography in France, and, as is most proper, the contribution of the Prince of Monaco and the splendid Museum of Oceanography, of which he is the founder and patron. This institution was established in 1898, not only to gather and preserve the collections made by the Prince, but to exhibit everything that illustrates the science of the ocean. Two cuts show the façades of this imposing building, one of which rises loftily from the rocky shore-line of the Mediterranean. It is unfortunate that a volume so admirable and useful should not contain an alphabetic index.

A. P. B.